

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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## C.E.C. CONFERENCE - evangelistic cooperation as "one in Christ Jesus"

On Oct. 12-14 at beautiful Amagisanso, 83 co-workers for Christ gathered to discuss the evangelistic program of the Nihon Kirisuto Kyodan (United Church of Christ). Of these co-workers, 37 were foreign missionaries. Yet, these evangelists, both foreign and Japanese, felt as never before the truth that "There is neither Jew nor Greek....for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28-9).

Part of this growth in mutual confidence and respect came through a growing ability in the Japanese language on the part of the younger missionaries. But mostly, this feeling of oneness had come as the result of working together as equals dedicated toward the same goal over a period of several years.

One evidence of this unity was the atmosphere in which the group looked for the most part at the problems of evangelism of the Church rather than the problems existing between themselves. Another evidence was that in discussions, there was more of a frank expression of feeling with an expectation of love and understanding on the part of others. There were fewer evidences of frustration and dissatisfaction on the part of missionaries because of lack of understanding or opportunity to work effectively.

In terms of specific content of this Council of Evangelistic Cooperation Conference, perhaps the most significant change was a growing realization that the church in Japan has reached only the second level of growth. One member suggested that a local church goes through three basic stages; dependance on support from outside itself, independance in terms of self support, and maturity in







which it reaches outside of itself to start new churches around itself. Another put the idea in the phrase "Each church giving birth to another church" (Kyokai wa Kyokai o umu). Until each local congregation catches this vision, the group agreed, no grand strategy imposed from above will go very far.

Perhaps the most significant points brought out in the summary of the four discussion groups (on the role of the missionary in evangelism in Japan) are:

1) Evangelistic missionaries are assigned to a whole kyoku as a fraternal worker, not to some one church alone. They should bear this in mind as they carry on their work. However, they should also have a specific work in one or two localities in order to sink their roots deep enough to nourish and be nourished by the soil of this country.

2) During the first two years of language study, student missionaries should take every chance to learn about the customs, the socio-political conditions, and the polity, life, and problems of the local church in this country. Only thus will they be able to make a contribution to the evangelistic work in this country.

3) In so far as possible, there should be missionary observers on every committee in the Kyoku (district). These missionaries should act as contact people to keep other missionaries in touch with the program of the Church in their area. Further, there needs to be more opportunities for missionaries and the officers of the Kyoku to get together and exchange views, information and plans.

4) Missionaries are encouraged to make careful preparation for doing evangelistic work among industrial workers. Such Workers in Japan have problems and inclinations which are unique. A careful orientation in this field is prerequisite to the effective work which needs so much to be done.

5) Very helpful to pioneer evangelistic work would be the assigning of an experienced pastor and a missionary as advisors and co-laborers with every young pioneer evangelist. An evangelist just out of seminary is greatly in need of all of the advice, help, and encouragement possible in the difficult job of pioneer evangelism.

6) Missionaries are encouraged to use their home as a demonstration ground for Christian home and family life. Inviting couples into the missionary home is very helpful. This is especially true when one member of a couple is not a Christian, for this demonstration will strengthen the hand of the Christian member.

7) Japanese and foreign evangelists alike are strongly urged to make better use of women's societies and kindergartens. In the case of the former, women can become effective "volunteers" for







visitation evangelism. (see JCAN 10/1/55 p 1). In the case of the kindergartens, they are a goldmine of opportunity quite beyond that of affording the pastor and his family with financial support.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE - missionary education on our own doorstep

One day early this month, 43 ladies from the Tokyo Council of Church Women (the association of women from English speaking churches in the Tokyo area) spent a whole afternoon in lectures and tours of the AVACO Center and the Christian Center (Kyobunkwan). It was part of a continuing mission study program put on by the Council of Church Women. Through this "on the site" orientation to these nerve centers of Christian work in Japan, the ladies were able to learn much of what is going on in the Church here. The Christian Center is the location of the NCC Office and most of its Commissions, the Japan Bible Society, the Kyodan Office and related offices, and many other groups.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE - sex, New Life Movement, and publicity

Meeting at Hakone Oct 5-6, 49 official delegates attended the NCC Christian Home and Family Life Committee sponsored National Conference. The delegates came as official representatives of either their local NCC or else their own denomination.

Dr. Kuwada, President of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, spoke from a theological point of view on the theme: "Present Day Crisis and the Christian Family Life". This served as both a stimulator for and a background to animated discussion which centered around three main topics:

1) Rev. T. Hirayama wrote an article in the October issue of the "New Age" (a popular magazine with Christian backing) in which he implied the sanctioning of pre-marital sexual intercourse. The group at this Conference was provoked to animated discussion in which most of the group took issue with such a position. It was decided by the group that the NCC Christian Home and Family Life Commission should either write a strong protest to the Magazine, or better yet have an article written from the opposite viewpoint.

2) There is a Japanese national government sponsored "New Life Movement" (the Japanese name of which closely resembles the Japanese name of this NCC Commission) which seeks to reform the Japanese way of life. This Movement is one of the special projects of Hatoyama's cabinet and has been given a ¥50,000,000 subsidy. As the result of some discussion of this Movement at the Conference, it was suggested that the Committee invite those members of the government Movement who are Christians to a meeting designed to orient them as to what the NCC Christian Home and Family Life Committee is already doing in this direction. The Committee could offer to supply speakers to work in cooperation with the New Life Movement, explore the possibility of putting the Movement in touch with local churches, and find other means of cooperation between the two.







3) In an effort to promote the aims of the Committee on the local level, there should be a wider use of literature and audio visual aids. Specifically, a simple little leaflet will be published describing the aims of the Committee and how local churches can cooperate with it. This leaflet will be circulated to the members of local churches. Further, a booklet containing the speeches made at the Conference and a summary of the discussions will be published. These may both be ordered through the NCC Office.

### NEW BAPTIST BUILDINGS

Seinan Gakuin, the Japan Baptist Convention school in Fukuoka, recently dedicated three new buildings. The Main Building was designed by the Merrill Vories' Architectural Office and contains a Chapel seating 150 people, a library, five class rooms, the Dean's office, study rooms for professors, and the administrative office. This very modern design building covers 380 "tsubo" (approx. 6800 sq. ft.) and was built at a cost of ¥30,000,000 (\$83,000).

On October 10 a new girl's High School building and a gymnasium were dedicated. These two buildings cost a total of ¥70,000,000 (\$190,000). These buildings are called the "Hara Memorial Buildings" in honor of the former President of Seinan Gakuin.

### CHRISTMAS IN THE HOME - a handy "Guide" in the right direction

With Christmas drawing near, a new booklet put out by the NCC Christian Home and Family Life Committee will be good news for those who want to help spread the Good News at Christmas Time.

"A Guide to Observing Christmas at Home" is a 63 page booklet selling for ¥30. Its purpose is to help promote the true meaning of Christmas in a significant as well as joyful way in the home.

Originally, Christmas was observed only in the churches in Japan. But since the war, all kinds of institutions from department stores to the taxi dance halls have taken the "observation" of Christmas as a means to their own commercial ends. Today, there is hardly a person in this country who has not heard of "Kurisumas", but the content of the term is almost without exception either a complete blank or else a distorted picture of a secular holiday.

In an effort to communicate the true significance of Christmas the Christian Family Life Committee has written and published this booklet. It is designed to give practical aids so that this joyful season can be observed in the home and shared among family and friends. Some of the contents are: Several different examples of services that might be held in a home, including sermons, hymns stories and poems; Illustrated directions for making decorations for the home; Three different Christmas menus with directions for cooking; Directions and details of program for recreational Christmas parties; and Four actual experiences of observing Christmas in the home.







A twenty percent discount is extended to those ordering ten or more copies, so that the profit can be kept by the group selling these booklets. They will also make appropriate gifts if given in advance of the season. They may be ordered from the N.C.C. Office.

### COMING EVENTS

October 21 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOKYO Y.M.C.A. will be held at the Meiji University Hall. Mr. Tokutaro Kimura, a member of the Diet and trustee of the City YMCA, will speak at this meeting. October 17 - 23 YMCA WEEK at the Tokyo YMCA. During this week there will be a movie, religious services, concerts, and a folk dance festival. For details contact the City YMCA.

November 2-3 KYODAN NATIONAL MISSIONARY CONFERENCE meeting in two sections. Western Japan meeting in Osaka Jogakuin, Eastern Japan in Aoyama Gakuin. Theme: "The Building Up of the Church" The Theme will be discussed from the point of view of what has actually been tried by local churches with the concrete results in view. The three main divisions of the problem are: 1) Meetings in the church 2) Evangelism of the church 3) Finances in the church. Kyodan missionaries are strongly urged to attend these meetings!

November 3 Celebration of the 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAPAN NATIONAL Y.W.C.A. at the Tokyo YWCA Hall 1:30 PM. First there will be a service of thanksgiving at which Mrs. Tamaki Uemura, President of the YWCA and pastor of Kashiwagi church will speak. Following will be a celebration meeting. On Nov. 4-5, the 12th quadrennial meeting of the YWCA will be held during which there will be a report of the World YWCA Convention held in London this September, and a discussion of the policy and current activities of the YWCA in Japan.

October - November DR. HAROLD A. BOSLEY, Minister of First Methodist Church in Evanston and noted writer, preacher, and lecturer will be lecturing here. For those interested in attending, the following is a sketch of his more important lectures: Tokyo Union Church Oct. 23, 24, 26, 28, 30; Tokyo Union Seminary a public lecture series Oct. 25-8, 10-12 AM; Rikkyo Oct. 26 2-4 PM; Lutheran Seminary Oct. 24; Tokyo meeting of Kyodan pastors Nov. 1, 4-5 PM; I.C.U. Nov. 2, 11-12 AM; Doshisha Nov. 7-10, 4-6 PM; Kwansei Gakuin Nov. 13-18; Kobe Union Church Nov. 13; Seinan Gakuin Nov. 19-21.

February 17 1956 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER theme: "One Flock, One Shepherd" John 10:16. The order of Service this year was prepared by an American Indian. The NCC of Japan is again printing services in Japanese and in English. In order to publish the proper quantities orders are being taken in advance with a deadline of December 1. The price will be approx. ¥10 for Japanese and ¥20 for English copies. Orders may be sent directly to the Women's Commission of the NCC, or through your own denominational channels.



